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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/800,637	03/16/2004	Takashi Yashiki	250268US	1131
22850	7590	09/03/2004	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			MORILLO, JANEL COMBS	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER

1742

DATE MAILED: 09/03/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/800,637

Applicant(s)

YASHIKI, TAKASHI

Examiner

Janelle Combs-Morillo

Art Unit

1742

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 01 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 061604,031604.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1 and 2 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by JP 09-003573 (JP'573) or XP-002278686 (XP'686).

JP'573 teaches a pure titanium alloy building material sheet comprising (in weight%): 0.01-0.06% Fe (100-600 ppm Fe, abstract, claim 1 of JP'573). JP'573 does not mention the presence of Co or Nb, and therefore is held to teach substantially zero Co and Nb. Additionally, JP'573 teaches examples with 105-571 ppm Fe in Table 1, which fall within the presently claimed range of Fe. Therefore it is held that JP'573 anticipates the presently claimed invention.

XP'686 teaches a high purity Ti alloy with 0.009% Fe max (see Table on bottom of 1st page). XP'686 does not mention the presence of Co or Nb, and therefore is held to teach substantially zero Co and Nb. Because XP'686 teaches a narrow range of Fe that overlaps the instant range "with sufficient specificity" (see MPEP 2131.03), it is held that XP'686 anticipates the instant claims.

Concerning dependent claim 2, neither JP'573 nor XP'686 teach forming an oxide layer on said Ti alloy. Therefore, JP'573 and XP'686 are held to meet the limitation of a surface oxide film of 170Å or below

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102/103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over JP'573 or XP'686.

JP'573 or XP'686 are discussed in paragraph 2 above. JP'573 mentions acid washing (pickling) at [0036] of the translation. Neither JP'573 nor XP'686 mention applying a heat treatment step of heating between the range of 130-280°C. With regard to the process steps, it is well settled that a product-by-process claim defines a product, and that when the prior art discloses a product substantially the same as that being claimed, differing only in the manner by which it is made, the burden falls to applicant to show that any process steps associated therewith result in a product materially different from that disclosed in the prior art. See MPEP 2113, *In re Brown* (173 USPQ 685) and *In re Fessman* (180 USPQ 524) *In re Thorpe*, 777 F.2d 695, 698, 227 USPQ 964, 966 (Fed. Cir. 1985). Because applicant has not shown that the alloy products taught by JP'573 or XP'686 are materially different than the presently claimed product by process, it is held that JP'573 or XP'686 anticipate, or create a prima facie case of obviousness, of the presently claimed invention.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

5. Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over JP'573 or XP'686 in view of JP10-008234 (JP'234). JP'573 or XP'686 are discussed above.

JP'573 or XP'686 do not mention the formation of an oxide coating. However, JP'234 teaches a method of forming an oxide coating on a titanium alloy in order to prevent discoloration, wherein said oxide coating has a thickness of  $\geq 20\text{\AA}$  (see examples, abstract), which overlaps the presently claimed limit of  $170\text{\AA}$  or below. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to form an oxide layer, as taught by JP'234, on the high purity Ti alloys taught by JP'573 or XP'686, because JP'234 teaches that said thin oxide layer prevents discoloration for a long period of time (abstract).


***Conclusion***


6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Janelle Combs-Morillo whose telephone number is (571) 272-1240. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 am- 6:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Roy King can be reached on (571) 272-1244. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
GEORGE WYSZOMIERSKI  
PRIMARY EXAMINER

JCM   
September 1, 2004